

DAY ONE EARLY LEARNING COMMUNITY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

LETTER FROM SITE DIRECTOR - CHANEL WHITAKER

Dear Families,

We are thrilled to welcome both our new and returning families to the DAY ONE Early Learning Center! The new school year is off to a wonderful start, and we are so grateful to have your children as part of our community. Now that we are entering the third month of school, routines are becoming more familiar, and we are watching the children settle in, make new friends, and grow each day. As a play-based school, our approach to learning focuses on exploration and discovery through play. While your children are engaged in activities that may seem like simple fun, they are actually developing critical skills in areas such as:

- **Social interaction:** Building friendships, learning cooperation, and resolving conflicts.
- **Problem-solving:** Engaging in creative thinking and decision-making.
- **Physical development:** Fine and gross motor skills through hands-on activities.
- **Language and communication:** Expanding vocabulary and expressing their thoughts.
- **Cognitive growth:** Exploring early math, literacy, and science concepts.

Every interaction and game offers a valuable opportunity for your child to grow and learn in ways that feel natural and enjoyable to them.



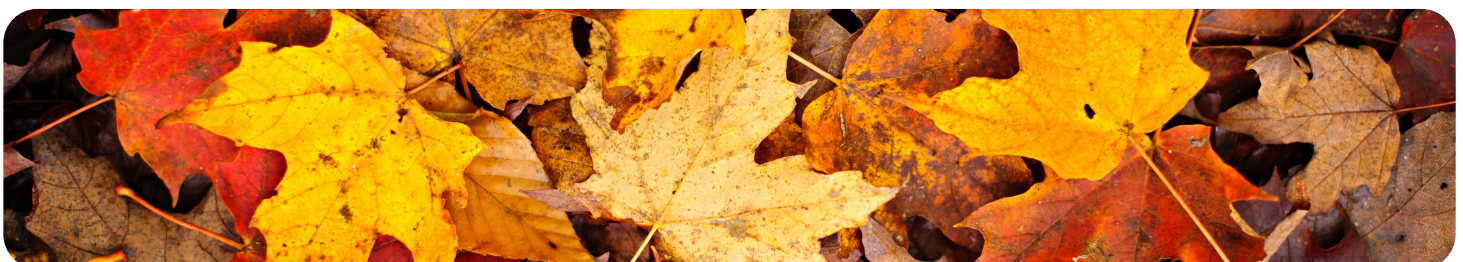
WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOMS? PART 1

Room 22
Ms. Ashleigh and Mrs. Clara:

Our students are noticing the changing of the seasons! We are following their lead and discussing trees and the changing of the seasons. We are currently learning about chlorophyll in the leaves and how that changes with the season.

We will be talking about dormant trees, trees that have lost their leaves, and animals that live in trees.

In the future we will be identifying the parts of a tree and how to tell how old a tree is! We are excited to work with natural resources like sticks, leaves, grass, pinecones, and pine needles to make some beautiful art in the future!



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Room 25
Mrs. Jackie Mrs. Faten:

In Room 25, we have spent these last few weeks learning about each other, colors and farm animals! These past two weeks, we have been exploring what a farmer does and how they take care of their animals. We have been singing "Old MacDonald" and allowing the children to add their own ideas to the farm. We have also been singing BINGO!

We have brought our toy pigs into the mud kitchen and learned that the pigs go in the mud not to be dirty but to stay safe from the sun! As we move forward, we are learning about leaves and bringing our farm to the table, by creating a farmers market all together! Some things you can do at home: allow for the exploration of the leaves, whether it is making collages, looking at the leaves, sorting the leaves, or even just raking them into a pile to jump in!

Also by visiting the local farmers market or orchard.

Room 11
Mrs. Margarita and Ms. Danielle:

Dear parents,

I look forward to working with your child this year. Among the many things we will learn as a toddler, I find that separation, routines and knowing each other is important for our children.

We have been reading the book, Owl Babies, by Martin Waddell. It is a lovable story of three owl babies (Sarah, Percy, and Bill) that awake to find their owl mommy is GONE! Through the story, the owl babies are wondering where their mommy is and when she is coming back.

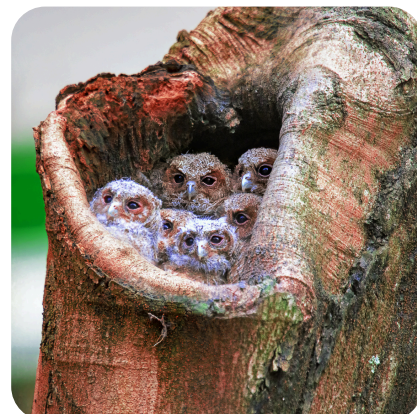
At the end of the book, their owl mommy returns home. This is the perfect story for toddlers to associate feelings of separation from parents each morning and they remember, they always come back.

One morning, a peer started to cry when dad left the classroom, immediately another classmate came up to him to comfort him and said, "Mama, coming soon." Another peer keeps asking for mama and dada. I replied, "Mama and dad come soon." Then, I asked, where was the baby owl? The child goes immediately to look for the puppet and places it on his finger and says, "Baby owl," with a big smile.

We have been singing two songs: about baby owls; Owl in the tree says, "Who, who, whoo!" Whoo, whoo are you? The window song, which I presented with a large picture of the children and recited their names. I Roll the Ball to You, I roll the ball to each child and we encourage them to tell us their names. The objective of these lyrics is to learn the names of their classmates. That is fun!

The children have adapted to our daily routine.

The owl babies' weeks organically lead us into our next few weeks of "Babies."



BOOK RECOMMENDATION



A Tree Grows Up by Marfé Ferguson Delano

An easy informational text from the National Geographic Kids series, this is a great book for growing preschoolers' vocabulary and scientific knowledge. Within its pages, children will learn about how trees grow, how trees change with the seasons, and the wildlife that can be found living in and around trees.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOMS? PART 2

Room 14
Ms. Shaniesha & Ms. Hilda

"Try It Tuesdays" – Apple Cinnamon Oatmeal

This week for "Try It Tuesdays", we explored a delicious and comforting dish: Apple Cinnamon Oatmeal! The kids were excited to try something new, and it turned out to be a warm, flavorful success for some. Exploring new foods can be an exciting and rewarding experience for both kids and adults. Here are three reasons why trying new foods is a great idea:

- **Boosts Nutritional Variety:** Introducing new foods helps us get a wider range of vitamins and minerals, which are essential for growing bodies and healthy minds.
- **Encourages Open-Mindedness:** Trying new foods fosters curiosity and an openness to new experiences, building confidence to explore and learn about different cultures and cuisines.
- **Promotes Healthy Eating Habits:** Experimenting with different flavors and textures can help kids develop a more adventurous palate, leading to healthier, balanced eating habits in the long run.

Based on our senses, this is the order in which you should introduce new foods to children:

1. **Touch** – Encourage them to feel the texture of the food.
2. **Smell** – Ask them to smell the food and describe its aroma.
3. **Sight** – Have them observe what the food looks like and talk about its appearance.
4. **Taste** – Let them take a small bite or lick the food to explore its flavor.

We look forward to trying even more exciting dishes together next week! Be sure to ask your child about their experience, and maybe even try making Apple Cinnamon Oatmeal at home.

Happy eating!



Room 20
Ms. Kayla & Ms. Rosmerayah:

At the end of September, Room 20 celebrated the Mid-Autumn festival, a Chinese holiday that is similar to Thanksgiving and celebrates the harvest. One of the class parents came in and made mooncakes and lanterns with the children.

Let us know if there are any traditions you celebrate at home that you'd like to share with the class!



PARENTING TIPS – HALLOWEEN

Here are three helpful tips from the article:

- **Practice Costume Familiarity:** Let young children practice seeing and putting on simple, non-scary costumes beforehand. Adults or siblings can put on masks, take them off, and say reassuring phrases like "it's just me." This practice helps reinforce the difference between fantasy and reality, reducing the likelihood of confusion when costumes are seen on Halloween night.
- **Read Stories About Fantasy and Reality:** Reading stories that explore the difference between real and pretend, like Berenstain Bears' Bad Dream, can help children process Halloween themes. This creates an opportunity to discuss how daily events can blend into dreams or nightmares, making Halloween's excitement less confusing or scary.
- **Respect Your Child's Sensitivity:** Children vary in their responses to stimuli; some enjoy mild scares, while others can be easily overwhelmed. Monitor your child's reactions during Halloween activities, especially when they encounter costumes or decorations. Respecting these differences can prevent overstimulation and help manage potential fears or nightmares after Halloween.

These approaches create a more comforting and manageable Halloween experience for young children, focusing on their developmental needs.



ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR CHILDREN AT HOME HOME MADE PLAYDOUGH

Use cold or warm water straight from the faucet, but adding glycerin can make the dough even better.

The water temperature depends on how much I want the kids involved. Boiling or hot water makes the dough last longer, but cold water is safer for kids to help.

You can also use liquid watercolors instead of food coloring because they don't stain, or make the dough white and let the kids color it with markers afterward.



EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Voting is a wonderful way for grown-ups to help shape the world we live in, just like how we choose activities in the classroom! When people vote, they share their opinions on important decisions that affect our communities, schools, and neighborhoods. It's a chance to make sure everyone's voice is heard, just like when we all take turns during circle time.

Every vote counts, which is why it's important for everyone who can to participate. Voting helps make sure different ideas are considered, much like how everyone's input is valued when we decide on our class projects. When adults vote, they are doing their part to make our world a better place for everyone.

By voting, people are helping to create a future that's fair and kind for all. It's like planting a seed today so it can grow into a beautiful garden tomorrow! We encourage everyone to learn more about voting and make sure YOUR voice is part of the conversation.

